

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ April 2014



***In This Issue:
MHZC Seeks Your Input,
Old House Fair,
National Register Update,
2014 Preservation Awards,
Created Equal: America's Struggle for Civil Rights,
and more...***

What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

New! The Historic Zoning Commission Seeks Your Input

The MHZC is hosting a **series of three charettes** in April to gain public input on design issues. The increase in new development has been positive for the city but it can place stress on our historic neighborhoods. The charettes will explore those challenges and provide an opportunity for attendees to brainstorm potential design solutions.

On April 7, the topic will be a potential *Duplex Policy*. Attendees will explore whether detached duplexes are appropriate and if so, in what forms and in what instances. The MHZC wants to be prepared with clear direction on how to address duplexes if a proposed definition of two-family is adopted. The new definition would allow the MHZC to determine when a duplex could be detached. Currently the code requires that all duplexes have at least a minimal attachment. Historically duplexes were one building, and this will continue to be the requirement in the majority of instances.

On April 21, the topic will be *New Construction--Additions and Infill*, and the series will conclude with ***Outbuildings and Detached Accessory Dwelling Units on April 28***. During these two charettes, MHZC staff will present examples of typical applications and explain how the Commission applies the design guidelines to these cases. MHZC staff will also present examples from other communities to show how they have addressed similar issues. Participants will explore how the needs and desires of property owners can be met in a manner that meets the design guidelines, by drawing and discussing solutions in break-out groups.

SCHEDULE:

Topic: Duplex Policy

Date: Monday, April 7

Location: Sonny West Conference Center, 700 Second Avenue South

Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Topic: New Construction—Additions and Infill

Date: Monday, April 21

Location: Sonny West Conference Center, 700 Second Avenue South

Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Outbuildings and Detached Accessory Dwelling Units

Date: Monday, April 28

Location: Sonny West Conference Center, 700 Second Avenue South

Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Please direct questions to Robin Zeigler, robin.zeigler@nashville.gov or 615-862-7970.

Success! 3rd Annual Old House Fair Draws a Crowd

Once again the Old House Fair was a great success, with beautiful weather and great turnout. If you missed meeting our exhibitors and sponsors you can still link to their websites from www.OldHouseFair.org.

Mark your calendar for **March 7 in 2015** for the 4th Annual Old House Fair!

We received rave reviews but people would like to hear more from the specialty contractors—flooring, plaster, metal, electrical and plumbing repair, for example. If you know of someone who fits this bill and should be at the Fair as an exhibitor and/or a presenter, please let Robin Zeigler know by contacting her at robin.zeigler@nashville.gov or 615-862-7970. (Participation in the Fair is invitation-only to assure that it meets the goals of connecting property owners with tradespeople and products specific to the repair and maintenance of old homes.)

A **big thank you** to all our organizing partners, volunteers, sponsors and exhibitors. We truly couldn't have done it without you!

These articles are from the March 2014 issue of *Historic Preservation Zoning News*, the newsletter of the Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission. To be added to the mailing list for the MHZC's newsletter, please email [Robin Zeigler](mailto:Robin.Zeigler).

NATIONAL REGISTER UPDATE

New!

Tennessee Supreme Court Building Listed in National Register of Historic Places

On Monday, March 18, 2014, the National Park Service added the Tennessee Supreme Court Building to the National Register of Historic Places. Located at 401 Seventh Avenue North, the building is an integral part of the Capitol Hill landscape, which includes the National Register-listed Tennessee State Capitol, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and John Sevier State Office Building, as well as the National Register-eligible Cordell Hull Building. The Tennessee Supreme Court Building was constructed in 1936-1937 as a replacement for the limited Supreme Court space in the Capitol, its primary home for over eighty years. The new Supreme Court building was

designed in the Stripped Classical style by the Nashville-based architectural firm Marr and Holman. The Tennessee Supreme Court Building was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local and state significance in the areas of law, government, and architecture.

From the nomination: From its construction to the present, the Tennessee Supreme Court Building has been important to the Nashville community and the State of Tennessee, both civically and architecturally. Under Criterion A, the building is significant in the area of Law and Government. Decades of important rulings and legal precedents occurred at the Tennessee Supreme Court Building, which was the first building in Tennessee specifically constructed to house the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. Also under this Criterion, the building is significant as a New Deal-era project, partially funded by the Public Works Administration (PWA). Under Criterion C, the building is architecturally significant as a prime example of Stripped Classicism, and representative of the work of the Nashville based architectural firm, Marr and Holman. The building retains an exceptionally high level of integrity on the interior and exterior. The period of significance begins in 1936 with the beginning of construction, and ends in 1965, when the fourth floor was reconfigured to accommodate the need for office space related to the newly established position of Secretary of the Supreme Court and associated staff.

Christine Mathieson with the Tennessee Historical Commission completed the 77-page nomination. Thank you for your excellent work, Christine!

2014 PRESERVATION AWARDS

New! 2014 Preservation Awards

The nominations are in! Our judging team will visit all nominated properties on Tuesday, April 15th. Nominees, look for scheduling information from us in the next few days.

Mark your calendar and make plans to join the Historical Commission and friends for the 39th Annual Preservation Awards program on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. The annual event, held each May during National Preservation Month, will take place at the Nashville Public Library Conference Center, 615 Church Street. The theme for National Preservation Month 2014 is “**New Age of Preservation: Embark, Inspire, Engage.**”

Have plans to **embark** on your own preservation adventure? Come join us for a program that will **inspire** you! Stay for the reception, hosted by Historic Nashville, Inc., and **engage** with preservation friends new and old!

To learn more about the awards program, please visit [Preservation Awards](#) or email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov. Missed this year’s deadline? We’re already accepting nominations for the 2015 Preservation Awards program. Email Scarlett Miles to request the 2015 nomination form.



IN THE NEWS

Ongoing! NashvilleNext.Net!

Work continues on a new Nashville General Plan which will provide a vision for our city’s future over the next 30 years, along with guidance for growth and development in Davidson County and much of Middle Tennessee. Called “NashvilleNext,” this is an ongoing, integrated plan for Nashville’s future - and information about the plan is now available on a constantly updated webpage which includes contact information, volunteer opportunities, details of the plan in progress, and video comments from some of the many community leaders who are already part of the NashvilleNext initiative. Visit www.nashvillenext.net or find Nashville Next on Facebook for the “next” big news!

Concerned about what this means for Nashville’s historic resources? Read the [Historic Preservation Background Report](#) and the [Historic Preservation Fact Sheet](#), and [share your comments](#) about the future of historic preservation in our city.

AROUND TOWN

New! First Tuesday at the Archives

*Tuesday, April 1—2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Metropolitan Government Archives
3801 Green Hills Village Drive*

Judith Broadbent will discuss writing local and family history. She is the author of *Golden Days: Stories and Poems from the Middle South and Beyond*. Sponsored by Friends of the Archives, this event is free and open to the public.

“First Tuesday at the Metro Archives” meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Please contact the [Archives](#) at 862-5880 or Ken.fieth@nashville.gov for more information.

New! 2014 Scottish Heritage Festival and Highland Dance Competition

Saturday, April 5—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Nashville Public Library
615 Church Street*

The downtown Nashville Public Library and the local Glengarry Highland Dancers will host the 1st Annual Nashville Scottish Highland Dance Competition, April 5th, from 10 AM to 4 PM in the library auditorium.

Dancers from all over the southeast United States will compete for prizes, medals, and trophies in five classes: Primary (children under 7), Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, and Premier.

Dances will include: Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Sean Triubhas, Scottish Lilt, Flora Mac Donald's Fancy, and Sailor's Hornpipe.

The festival will also have bag piping by the Tennessee Scots Pipe Band, Scottish dogs, displays, and children's activities.

New! Volunteers Needed for Park Day 2014

Saturday, April 5—11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*Historic Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum
636 Farrell Parkway*

As our nation commemorates the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, volunteers across the country will once again answer their nation's call to service. On Saturday, April 5, 2014, history buffs, community leaders and preservationists will team up with the Civil War Trust, History™ and Take Pride in America at more than 98 historic sites across the country to participate in the 18th annual Park Day.

Volunteers are needed at Travellers Rest for this preservation event. Activities will include herb garden clean up, fence cleaning, and raking leaves.

For inquiries and reservations, please contact Calah Brewster at (615) 832-8197. For more information about Park Day, visit www.civilwar.org.

Like Historic **Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum** on Facebook for up-to-date information on this and other events, including the Crawfish Boil on April 27th!

New! Fossils at the Fort

Saturday, April 5—10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park
1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

Presented by Metro Parks, Vanderbilt University Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Vulcan Materials Company

Join students enrolled in Vanderbilt's EES220 *Life Through Time* course for a journey into Middle Tennessee's astonishing ancient past. Vanderbilt student-led presentations and tours will reconstruct Tennessee's ancient past and highlight some of the most extraordinary fossils found around the world. Bring your fossils for identification. Discover 450 million year old fossils preserved in limestone. Plot and identify major events on a giant timeline. New designated fossil collection site – take fossils home with you!

For more information, visit [Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park](#) or call 615-862-8470.

Like **Fort Negley** on Facebook for up-to-date information on this and other events at the park, including the “Midday History Munch” on April 22!

New! History of the Cumberland Lecture Series

Selected Thursdays at Noon

The River Center, Cumberland River Compact

The Bridge Building

2 Victory Avenue, Suite 300

Join the Cumberland River Compact and the Tennessee Historical Society at the River Center on Thursday, April 10 for the first of a new monthly educational series, “[History of the Cumberland.](#)” The series—sponsored by the Cumberland River Compact and the Tennessee Historical Society—will feature some of the Cumberland River Basin’s preeminent historians and storytellers, who will explore the rich past of the Cumberland. All lectures are free, but for \$7.50 they’ll feed you lunch. You won’t want to miss it!

Thursday, April 10—Noon

KRISTOFER RAY: Why does the Cumberland Matter? 1600s-1760

Kristofer Ray, associate professor of Early American History at Austin Peay State University, will kick off the History of the Cumberland series by examining the basic question in the early history of the Cumberland River: why does this region matter? Why did the Europeans want to settle in the area and what was the American Indian perspective on this shifting equation? What was the political context amongst the French and British in the Americas, and how did that contribute to their movement towards what would later become Tennessee? [RSVP to the Cumberland River Compact](#) (you’ll have the option to order a lunch, too).

Mark your calendar for these future programs:

May 1—Noon

DAVID BRITTON: Contested ideas of identity on the Cumberland: 1763-1796

June 5—Noon

PAUL CLEMENTS: The Battle of the Bluff—A Turning Point of the Southern Frontier

July 10—Noon

PANEL DISCUSSION: Why the Cumberland Matters, Revisted: A Look Towards National Expansion

New! Midday History Munch

Tuesday, April 22—Noon

Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park

1100 Fort Negley Blvd.

Spend your lunch hour with Private Adam Himmel, 85th Illinois Vol. Inf. Reg., a soldier stationed at Fort Negley between 1862 and 1863, presented by Seth Breon, member of the 9th KY Vol. Inf. Reg. USA.

Bring a lunch to enjoy during the presentation. Seating is limited. For more information or to make reservations, please contact Fort Negley at 615-862-8470 or fortnegley@nashville.gov.

New! Crawfish Boil Benefitting Travellers Rest

Sunday, April 27—1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Travellers Rest Plantation & Museum
636 Farrell Parkway

Don't miss the 2nd Annual "all you can eat" Crawfish Boil benefiting Travellers Rest! Enjoy Cajun music set to the backdrop of Historic Travellers Rest, Nashville's oldest historic home open to the public. [Purchase your tickets online](#) today: \$40 per person online, \$45 at the door. Tickets include unlimited crawfish and beer, while supplies last!

For more information, visit www.travellersrestplantation.org, email info@travellersrestplantation.org, or call 615-832-8197.



New! Lotz House Private Cellar Tours

Selected Saturdays by Appointment
The Lotz House
1111 Columbia Avenue
Franklin, TN

Be one of the first to experience The Lotz House Cellar Tour, a unique showcase of historian John Marler's two year archeological excavation. The project, completed in November 2013, uncovered approximately 900 Civil War relics and items connected with civilian life from the mid to late 1800s.

Private tours will take place on the third Saturday of each month from March through October in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

Highlights of this exclusive experience include:

- A review of the excavation process
- A first-hand look at the relics uncovered
- A description of the significance of the findings
- An interpretation of how these findings relate to a better understanding of the happenings inside the Lotz House following the historic battle

Contact J.T. Thompson at jtt@lotzhouse.com or call 615-790-7190 to reserve your place on one of the following tour dates:

April 19 | May 17 | June 21 | July 19 | August 16 | September 20 | October 18

All tours will be held from 10 a.m. – noon. The cost is \$30 per person. This is a limited tour, first-come-first-served. The guided tour of the Lotz House is \$10 and is a separate ticket.

For more information about the Lotz House, visit www.lotzhouse.com.

Coming Soon! Created Equal – Film Screening and Discussion Series

Saturday, June 21 through Friday, September 26, 2014

Various dates and times

Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park

1100 Fort Negley Blvd.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission in partnership with the Fort Negley Visitors' Center is delighted to be one of the recipients of a two-year grant program called *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*.

[*Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*](#) is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities that uses the power of documentary films to encourage community discussion of America's civil rights history. NEH has partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to develop programmatic and support materials for the sites.

The MHC & Fort Negley are part of the 473 institutions across the country awarded a set of four films chronicling the history of the civil rights movement. The powerful documentaries, *The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and *The Loving Story*, include dramatic scenes of incidents in the 150-year effort to achieve equal rights for all. Each of the films was produced with NEH support, and each tells remarkable stories of individuals who challenged the social and legal status quo of deeply rooted institutions, from slavery to segregation. *Created Equal* programs bring communities together to revisit our shared history and help bridge deep racial and cultural divides in American civic life.

Visit our website and Facebook page for [screening and discussion dates and times!](#)

The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov, with E-NEWS in the subject line.

Metropolitan Historical Commission

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Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor